Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 19-24 with the following amended paragraph:

The subject matter of the present application may also be related to the co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/759,511 ~~(Attorney Docket No. B-4759NP 621649-7)~~, filed of even date herewith and titled "Method and Apparatus for Combining Laser Light." The contents of this U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/759,511 ~~(Attorney Docket No. B-4759NP 621649-7)~~ are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 13-18 with the following amended paragraph:

Embodiments of the present invention produce a coherent state among a plurality of lasers without relying upon additional amplifiers. Combiners are used to implement the proper connectivity in coupling the laser light produced by the lasers so that the lasers form inphase states. The combiner may comprise a reflector and the coherent coupler disclosed in U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/441,026 or U.S. Patent Application No. 10/759,511 ~~(Attorney Docket No. B-4759NP 621649-7)~~.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 29 to page 9, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

An experimental set-up using another embodiment of the

present invention is depicted in FIG. 2. The laser apparatus 200 depicted in FIG. 2 comprises a set of coupled fiber lasers, which may be assembled from commercial-off-the-shelf optical components. In the apparatus 200 depicted in FIG. 2, four Nd-doped fibers 220 are coupled together with a five-way coupler 210. The fifth input port of the five-way coupler 210 is connected to a fast photo-diode 297 for analysis purposes, as discussed below. The fibers 220 are provided with laser pump energy from pump devices 230, preferably 813 nm diode pump lasers. Polarization controllers 223 are disposed at the ends of the fibers 220 opposite the coupler 210. Collimators 225, preferably 0.5mm ω_0, spaced at 1 mm, are also disposed at the ends of the fibers 220 opposite the coupler 210 to provide[[d]] a collimated beam, which is directed to a partial mirror 240. A very high reflectivity broadband grating 213 is disposed at the ~~output~~ terminal of the coupler 210, so that laser resonant cavities are formed between the partial mirror 240 and the high reflectivity grating 213.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, line 29 to page 14, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

The main coupler 810 is shown in more detail in FIG. 8A. The coupler 810 comprises the coupling connection segment 824 of the plurality of optical fiber paths 820 bundled together, stretched, and fused to form a coupling section 815 that provides a zone of high local-neighbor coupling. The coupler 810 preferably additionally comprises a surface 813 that has been cleaved or polished flat and coated to provide for partial reflection and partial transmission of the laser light produced within the optical

fiber paths 820. Preferred embodiments of the coupler are described in additional detail in the copending and commonly assigned U.S. Provisional Patent Application serial Number 60/441,026, titled "Method and Apparatus for Combining Laser Light," or U.S. patent application Serial Number 10/759,511 ~~(Attorney Docket Number B-4759NP-621649-7)~~, also titled "Method and Apparatus for Combining Laser Light."